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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1828	Press
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Dated	6-12-71 31-12-1967	1967

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34
18

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

31st December 1867.

No. 201. Read the following letter from the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Bangalore, 12th December 1867, No. 5191-30.

The Superintendent of the Ashtagram Division has brought to notice the increasing demand for elephants for the Public Service, and the consequent necessity which exists for prohibiting their destruction. As I fully concur in the views expressed by Major Elliot, I beg to append, for the information of His Excellency the

No. 3279-167, of 3rd instant.

Governor in Council, a copy of that Officer's letter, and, with reference to paragraph 2, to suggest that the destruc-

tion of elephants should be prohibited, and that special authority should be conveyed to parties desiring to shoot them.

From Major C. ELLIOT, Superintendent of the Ashtagram Division, to the Secretary to the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore; dated Camp Belagola, 3rd December 1867, No. 3279-167.

I have the honor, in advertence to previous correspondence on the subject of elephant catching, to request the favor of your obtaining the Commissioner's sanction to the prohibition of destroying elephants in this Division, in consequence of the increasing demand for them from the great diminution in their numbers and the requirements of the Public Service, in view to more definite arrangements being made for the establishment of Kraal operations.

2. A portion of the Belgiri Rungum Hills being within the Coimbatore frontier, I beg to suggest that the Madras Government be moved to co-operate in placing an absolute veto on the destruction of elephants, as I understand that considerable numbers are killed by parties resorting to, and resident at, Collegal, and recent instances have occurred within my own knowledge of the slaughter of females, a wanton and objectless, not to say unsportsmanlike, amusement.

3. Where elephants prove destructive to crops, pits may be dug, and liberty or license specially given to shoot or destroy them; but, except on private lands, the construction of pits by private individuals should not be allowed, and Government should have the option (as at present) of purchasing the elephants captured in private pits, paying 10 per cent. to the owner of the pit.

4. On this subject, a communication has been addressed to the Conservator of Forests.

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 31st December 1867, No. 1625.

The Governor in Council resolves to refer the papers above recorded to Mr. P. Grant, Collector of Coimbatore, to the Honorable D. Arbuthnott, Collector of Madura, and to Mr. W. Logan, Sub-Collector of Malabar, for such suggestions as they may have to offer on the subject of preventing the indiscriminate destruction of elephants, and as to the necessity of a legislative enactment for the preservation, under certain conditions, of these useful animals.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.
To the Honorable D. Arbuthnott, Collector of Madura.
To W. Logan, Esq., Sub-Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
24th August 1868.*

Read again papers recorded in the Proceedings of 20th February 1868,
Nos. 144—147.

No. 188. Read also the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue
Department.

Communicating a letter from the Govern-
ment of India requesting to be inform-
ed of the conclusions that may be ar-
rived at as to the propriety of Legis-
lative enactments to prevent the des-
truction of elephants. } (Dated 2nd May 1868, No. 1214.)

No. 189. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1868, No. 1035.

In the letter from the Home Department, dated 4th April 1868, the Govern-
ment of India requested to be informed of the conclusions at which the Madras
Government have arrived as to the propriety of legislating to prevent the destruc-
tion of elephants. Reports on this question have been furnished by Messrs. Grant,
Logan, and Arbuthnott.

2. Mr. Grant is in favor of legislation, except as regards elephants found on
private lands, or destroying crops or being troublesome to travellers.

3. Mr. Logan, whose letter is very full and suggestive, shows that wild ele-
phants are incompatible with the extension of the railway roads and the spread of
cultivation, and he would not prohibit the destruction of elephants wherever the
country is being opened up. He would reserve certain suitable tracts of country
unfitted for cultivation in which elephants may increase and multiply, and in which
their own instincts would teach them to remain. He specially mentions the upper
valley of the Vigay river in the Madura District, where there is dense jungle and an
abundance of water. This tract could be easily guarded, and is very convenient
for Kraal operations. He considers that the Government, by withholding rewards
for the destruction of elephants and keeping a moderate number of watchers, could
effectually preserve this tract without special legislation.

4. Mr. Arbuthnott suggests the portion of a Government Forest in the
Periakolum Taluq, called the Peria Mullay, as an elephant preserve. Mr. Arbuthnott
would legislate to the extent of prohibiting the destruction of female elephants in
all forests on Government land, except when destroyed for the protection of life or
crops.

5. After a careful consideration of these recommendations, the Government
are of opinion that legislation is required for the preservation of elephants, which
are threatened with extinction by the concurrent causes of sport and cultivation,
and that the following provisions should be made in any enactment having this
object in view:—

- (1). On all waste or forest land the property of Government, of Zemindars,
or others, the destruction of the female elephant should be prohibited,
under a penalty of from 10 to 500 Rupees fine, and imprisonment not
exceeding one month in default of payment.
- (2). The destruction of the male elephant should be prohibited on all waste
or forest lands, the property of Government, under the same penalty,
except by persons holding a license to shoot the male elephant from the
Collector of the District.

- (3). Zemindars and other proprietors would retain the right to shoot the male elephant on their waste lands without the license of Government.
- (4). The right to shoot elephants trespassing on cultivated lands and on the high roads would remain as at present common to all.
- (5). Persons shooting on waste lands and others would be exonerated from the penalties attached to the destruction of an elephant when it could be proved that the act was committed in self-defence.
- (6). The same exoneration would be extended to those who should destroy on waste land an elephant found on cultivated land and pursued from thence.
6. In addition to these legal provisions it will, in the opinion of Government, be desirable to offer rewards to persons belonging to the Forest Department and others, who may give such information of the illicit destruction of elephants as may lead to the conviction of the offenders.
7. A stipulated price should also be paid for every elephant caught or trapped on private lands and brought in alive and uninjured to any Officer of the Revenue, Police, or Commissariat Department.
8. Rewards for the destruction of elephants will no longer be given, except in cases where it may be necessary for the protection of life or property to offer specific rewards for elephants known to be dangerous or notoriously infesting and destroying cultivation.
9. These Proceedings will be submitted to the Government of India, who will be requested to determine whether legislation on this subject shall be imperial or local.
10. The attention of the Board of Revenue will be called to paragraph 8 of these Proceedings, with a view to their issuing the necessary instructions to the Collectors of the Districts for the discontinuance of rewards for killing elephants.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 190. MINUTE by His Excellency the PRESIDENT, dated 28th July 1868.

With a view to the preservation of elephants, which are threatened with extinction by the concurrent causes of sport and cultivation, I think the Government ought to enact a law containing the following provisions:—

1. On all waste or forest land, the property of Government, of Zemindars, or others, the destruction of the female elephant should be prohibited under a penalty of from 10 to 500 Rupees fine, and imprisonment not exceeding one month in default of payment.
2. The destruction of the male elephant should be prohibited on all waste or forest lands, the property of Government, under the same penalty, except by persons holding a license to shoot the male elephant from the Collector of the District.
3. Zemindars and other proprietors would retain the right to shoot the male elephant on their waste lands without the license of Government.
4. The right to shoot elephants trespassing on cultivated lands and on the high roads would remain as at present common to all.

5. Persons sporting on waste lands and others would be exonerated from the penalties attached to the destruction of an elephant when it could be proved that the act was committed in self-defence.
6. The same exoneration would be extended to those who should destroy on waste land an elephant found on cultivated land and pursued from thence.
7. Rewards should be offered to persons belonging to the Forest Department and others who give information of the illicit destruction of elephants on the conviction of the offender.
8. A stipulated price should be paid by Government for every elephant trapped or caught on private lands and brought in alive and uninjured to any Revenue, Police, or Commissariat functionary.
9. Rewards for the destruction of elephants should be abolished, except in cases in which specific rewards are offered by the competent authority for the destruction of man-slaying elephants on the high roads, or of elephants notoriously infesting and destroying the cultivated country.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 191. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 24th August 1868, No. 1036.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, No. 1661, dated 4th April last, and, with reference thereto, to enclose, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, the Proceedings of this Government, of this date, containing the conclusions at which they have arrived as to the measures to be adopted to prevent the destruction of elephants in this Presidency.

2. I am to request the decision of the Government of India, whether legislation on this subject should be imperial or local.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th February 1868.

Read the following papers:—

No. 144. From P. GRANT Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Coimbatore, 18th January 1868, No. 9.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government and their Order thereon, dated 31st ultimo, No. 1625.

2. I consider the preservation of wild elephants in this Presidency a subject of no small importance. Elephants are becoming scarce every year. The jungles through which these useful animals have been in the habit of roaming have, within the last twenty years, in many parts of the country, been very much circumscribed. The Planters' axe has done its duty only too well I fear. The result, so far as the elephants are concerned, is that they are much more limited as to space than in years gone by, and are, consequently, more easily found by sportsmen and professional Shikarries. Indeed, were it not that sportsmen are restrained by fear of contracting fever, the elephants in this part of the country would speedily be exterminated. Sportsmen, good and true, go out to shoot Tuskers, but the Tuskers keep out of their way, and but few of them can help *en passant* having a shot at a female, just to see how the new breech-loader shoots.

3. For the last ten years, during which period I have served in the Malabar and Coimbatore Districts, I have only, I think, paid a reward for one elephant, and that was in the case of an animal which took possession of the crops of a village in Collegal Taluq and refused to move off. She was eventually shot by an Inspector of Police, whose services were enlisted by the villagers for the purpose. By putting a stop to rewards for elephants, many animals have been saved. When I came to this District six years ago, several persons had taken to elephant shooting as a means of livelihood, but they gave up the sport at once on finding that it would not pay. I mention these circumstances to show that I have for years discouraged the destruction of these animals. The elephants of Southern India are, for the purposes of dragging timber in the Forests, far superior to the Ceylon animals. I have known an Adigherry in Malabar, on Rupees 7 per mensem, pay over Rupees 2000 for a good elephant caught in the Jungles of Southern India.

4. In view to the preservation of elephants for the future, it will be necessary to legislate, and to declare that any one proved to have shot or destroyed, or attempted to shoot or destroy, an elephant, will render himself liable to a fine not exceeding Rupees 1000. On private lands people should be allowed to capture elephants and sell them to the best advantage. Elephants injuring crops or proving troublesome to travellers, which will seldom happen, should, in either case, be allowed to be shot by any one.

5. All Government servants, Civil and Military, should at once be prohibited from shooting elephants, and Collectors should be directed to report any infringement of this prohibition.

No. 145. From W. LOGAN, Esq., Sub-Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Cannanore, 25th January 1868, No. 18.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Government Proceedings, No. 1625, dated 31st December 1867, regarding means for preventing the indiscriminate destruction of elephants.

2. I presume that there is an increasing demand for elephants for the Public Service, which in proportion it is found difficult to meet.

3. It is a well known fact that tame elephants will not breed in confinement. Attempts are sometimes made in this district to breed elephants by leaving males and females together for considerable periods in distant and unfrequented parts of the jungles when there is no work for them to do, but I do not know of any well authenticated instance of their having bred under such circumstances; though it is not unusual for the herds of tame female elephants to be visited by wild males when let out into the jungles to feed, and young elephants are not unfrequently the produce of this occasional intercourse.

4. But, after all, the main resource for keeping up the supply of elephants is by catching them when in a wild state.

5. There are many portions of the Presidency in which wild elephants are still to be found; but, with the gradual spread of cultivation, the opening out of roads, and other signs of advancing civilization, these parts are diminishing in size every year. Some years ago, the Waller jungle, on the boundary between this District and Coimbatore, used to be much frequented by wild elephants. Many were killed by sportsmen, but they never actually ceased to frequent the place until the Railway was opened; since which time, I know of no instance of their crossing, as they used formerly to do in large numbers, from the Hills north of Palghat to the Cochin Hills on the south. ~~The opening of the Railroad was, of course, the cause of this;~~ but the same effect is produced on a smaller and more gradual scale, no doubt by the opening of roads and the clearing of lands for cultivation.

6. Sportsmen are merely the forerunners of the cultivation that is coming to the jungles that elephants inhabit. Sportsmen cannot exist at long distances from the places whence they procure their supplies, and hence it is that, with few exceptions, they never extend their sporting excursions far from the bazaars where the rice for their coolies and servants, the gram for their horses, and supplies generally are to be procured. Hassanur, in the Suttiamungalum Taluq of Coimbatore, is a favorite resort for sportsmen, simply because a highroad from the south to Mysore, passable throughout for carts, enables them to transport themselves, their goods and servants, into the interior of the Hills without much trouble. Take away the cart road and the ghaut up to Hassanur, and I question whether one sportsman in ten of those who have visited the place in the last few years would ever have reached it. I consider it to be a certain sign that the country is being opened up by roads for the spread of cultivation when accounts are received of a large destruction of elephants by sportsmen. The latter can only make a sustained effort, and do much execution when they discover a place, which, in addition to having the requisite supply of game, has, at the same time, great facilities for the procuring of supplies for themselves and followers.

7. I question much, therefore, the expediency of the Government taking steps to preserve the elephants in those hills through which roads are being constructed, and where, in consequence, cultivation may soon be expected to follow. That it could be done, there is no doubt, for there is no more sagacious animal on the face of the earth than the elephant, and when they have long been unhurt by the herds-men and the woodsmen, who alone visit their haunts, they exhibit the most su-

preme indifference to their presence. It is by no means unusual in some parts of the country, as many sportsmen know, to find wild elephants quietly feeding within earshot of a herdsman shouting to his cattle, and the cattle and wild elephants are not unfrequently mixed up: they have learnt by experience that no danger is to be apprehended from such causes. Let them, however, but hear the distant sound of a shot, and they turn tail and go straight off for miles.

8. The herdsman and the woodsman have no cause for enmity, and so they leave the elephants unharmed, but it is different when roads are opened up, and the country comes under cultivation. When elephants make a descent on cultivated land, as they do almost annually in some parts of this district, they do a very great deal of harm—not so much in what they eat, but in what they destroy by trampling it into the mud. Continually on the move while feeding, they pluck up a bunch of paddy here and there, but what they eat is little in comparison with what they trample down. A fair sized herd of elephants will destroy in one night pretty nearly the produce of a twenty acre patch of paddy, and no amount of shouting will drive them from the place, though they are very easily frightened away by the sound of a shot. Cultivated fields and wild elephants are quite incompatible with each other; and, of course, if Government prohibits the destruction of elephants in a country being rapidly brought under cultivation, compensation for crops destroyed must be paid: and it is as well to remember that female elephants do as much damage as males. Captain Garrow, the well known Elephant Shot, did a great service to what was then the Temalpuram Taluq of this District, by slaying indiscriminately the male and female elephants, which at that time did great damage to the paddy cultivation.

9. But, from a limited knowledge of the country, I do not think that it is necessary to take such a step as to prohibit the destroying of elephants in parts of the country which are being opened up.

10. To keep up the breed of wild elephants it is only necessary to leave them in undisturbed possession of a considerable well defined range of uncultivated country, such as a valley surrounded by hills. If they wander beyond this into cultivated parts, let them suffer at the hands of the cultivator or the sportsman, and their sagacity will very soon teach them to keep within the prescribed limits. There must be in the Presidency many tracts of country of the nature above described. One in particular I would mention, namely, the upper valley of the Vigay river in Madura. It is of very considerable extent, and is shut in by hills on all sides. It is quite uncultivated, except at the lower extremities, and it is adjacent to a very large well-watered uncultivated tract of country in Travancore and to the heavy timber forest covered mountains at the source of the Shurley or Suruliyar. It, at times, swarms with herds of female elephants, accompanied by their young; and there would be no great difficulty in capturing the latter, as the country abounds in little valleys—off-shoots from the main one—surrounded on all sides by hills too precipitous for the passage of the elephants, except by one or two well-known and easily recognized passes. With the latter well guarded, the capture of every elephant that entered the valley could be made a matter of certainty by driving them into a small kraal.

11. Government, in its capacity as landlord, could, without any need of legislation, prohibit trespassers from entering these tracts, except under such conditions as might seem necessary; and in the tract of country to which I have referred a very

small establishment of watchers would suffice, as the valley becomes very narrow towards the lower end, and there is no road into it except at that point.

12. In conclusion, I would observe that, owing to the fact that elephants are sufficiently kept in check at present from making extensive inroads on cultivated lands (in this district at least), it is no longer necessary to give rewards for their destruction, and that the rules for granting rewards for their destruction might, with convenience, be cancelled. It would, of course, be always discretionary with the Collector to bring any particular instance to the notice of Government in which damage to life or property had ensued.

No. 146. From the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Madura, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madura, 3rd February 1868, No. 180.

With reference to the Order contained in the Proceedings of Government in the Public Department, dated 31st December last, No. 1625, I have the honor to state that in this district there is but one Government Forest in which there are reported to be a large number of elephants.

2. It is situated in the village of Cumbum, in Periakolum Taluq, on the hill* to the east of that village, and is marked in the map as an unsurveyed tract "covered with impenetrable forest."

* It is called indifferently "Peria Mullay", or big hill, and Cumbum Hill.

3. In shape, the hill is an irregular triangle, with an area of about 25 or 30 square miles completely covered with dense forest.

4. There are no human inhabitants, nor is the forest resorted to even for timber.

5. The sides of the hill are steep and devoid of large trees, but covered with long coarse grass and impenetrable masses of reed bamboo.

6. The forest commences at a height of about 4000 feet above sea level, and seems to cover the whole of the top in an unbroken mass.

7. In July last, when examining the Peryar, in company with Captain Ryves, Mr. Logan, Sub-Collector of Malabar, and the Sub-Collector of Madura, I ascended this hill to a height of about 4400 feet.

8. We found the marks of Elephants and Bison in great numbers, and there appeared to be no paths except those made by these animals.

9. When at this elevation, the hill, still densely covered with forest, rose to a height of probably 1200 feet above us.

10. At its southern end, this hill joins the Travancore Hills and jungles, so that the animals have free access to the extensive jungles lying between Tinnevely and Travancore.

11. From all I can learn, the Peria Mullay appears never to have been frequented by either Native or European sportsmen, so that, probably, the forest has remained undisturbed for ages.

12. At certain seasons, the elephants descend into the Varshanad valley and into the lower ranges of the Saptur Hills.

13. The former belongs to the Zemindary of Guntapanaiknūr, now under the Court of Wards; and the latter are in the Saptur Zemindary.

14. In the Travancore country elephants are sufficiently protected, ivory being a royalty, but they are occasionally shot in Guntapanaiknūr and Saptur.

15. For the protection of elephants I think an enactment should be passed prohibiting the destruction of females altogether in all forests on Government land, under the penalty of a fine, except when destroyed for the protection of life or crops; and with these exceptions I would make the destruction of males also illegal without the permission of Government. The Act should not apply to Zemindaries.

No. 147. To the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore, dated Fort Saint George, 20th February 1868, No. 216.

With reference to your letter dated the 12th December last, No. 5191-30, I am

*1st January 1868, No. 9.
3rd February 1868, No. 180.
25th January 1868, No. 18.

directed to forward copies of letters* from the Collectors of Coimbatore and Madura, and from the Sub-Collector of

Malabar, offering suggestions on the subject of preventing indiscriminate destruction of elephants, and to inform you that the matter is under the consideration of this Government.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,

Chief Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1871.*

Read again Proceedings of Government dated 31st December 1867, Nos. 201-202.

" " " " 20th February 1868, Nos. 144-147.
" " " " 24th August 1868, Nos. 188-191.

Read also the following papers :—

No. 34. From E. C. BAYLEY, Esq., c.s.i., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Judicial), to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Simla, 5th August 1870, No. 1382 :—

With reference to your letter No. 1036, dated 24th August 1868, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Madras Government, a report received from the Commissioner of Mysore, No. 5051-30, dated the 14th December 1868, and to state that the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the propriety of legislative interference in order to prevent the wanton destruction of elephants in Southern India has been fully established, but that the required legislation should be local and not imperial.

2. At the same time I am to observe that this, like other cases of local legislation, involves the question whether such Legislatures have the right to impose penalties on Europeans. The High Court of Bombay has indeed, in a case pending before it, recently recorded a judgment adverse to the power of the local Legislature to pass a penal law affecting British-born subjects. The question is one of great practical importance, and His Excellency in Council is of opinion that steps should forthwith be taken to obviate the difficulty. With this view the matter is at present under consideration in the Legislative Department.

3. A copy of a letter* from the Government of Bengal on the subject of the needless destruction of elephants is also forwarded for information.

* No. 878, dated 21st February 1870.

From the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Camp at Suklasore, 14th December 1868, No. 5051-30.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 34-3886, dated 23rd September last, requesting my views on the question as to the propriety of legislative interference to prevent the destruction of elephants in this Province as well as in Coorg.

2. The Superintendents of the three Divisions and the Officiating Conservator of Forests have been consulted on the subject, and the views they have expressed are unanimously in favour of measures being adopted to prevent the indiscriminate slaughter or capture of elephants.

3. The opinion of the Superintendent of the Ashtagram Division (Major Elliot, c.s.), with whom the discussion originated, is contained in his letter of 3rd December 1867, and is quoted in the Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 31st December of the same year, copy of which has been annexed to your letter under reference. That officer, adverting to the considerable slaughter of elephants carried on by parties in the adjacent districts of the Madras Presidency, urged the co-operation of the Madras Government being obtained to an absolute *veto* being placed on the destruction of these animals, and to the withdrawal of license to all private individuals to construct pits, except in particular cases, when elephants prove destructive to crops, and in private lands where the Government should have the option of purchasing captured elephants at a certain percentage of their value.

4. The Conservator of Forests considers that the construction of elephant pits on private lands should be greatly restricted, where such lands lie in the vicinity of those tracts which are chiefly frequented by elephants.

Public Office
 18th Dec 1871
 No 216
 Secretary to Government
 of India
 20th February 1870

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1871.*

5. The Superintendent of the Nundidroog Division, Major Pearse, whose experience enables him to offer a reliable opinion on the subject, considers that no distinction should be allowed between male and female elephants, as it is the male and not the female which comes into season at long intervals, and the protection of the male animal is therefore necessary to the preservation of the breed. It is only in the case of a mischievous "rogue" elephant that the prohibition against shooting might be relaxed, and in such instances the Collector or District Officer may be authorized to grant special licenses.

6. The position of Mysore and Coorg, surrounded as these Provinces are on all sides by Her Majesty's territories, seems to me to render it indispensable that any measures which may be enacted for the preservation of elephants by the Imperial Government should be applied equally to them. The necessity for legislative interference is, I consider, fully established, and its object should be directed to the absolute prohibition, under heavy penalties, of the destruction or capture of elephants, whether male or female, with a reservation in favour, *first*, of Zemindars or proprietors of jaghires and inam lands, who should be permitted to shoot or capture elephants in pits, the State having, in the latter case, the option to purchase at 25 per cent. of the value of the captured elephant; *2ndly*, of villagers and cultivators when invaded by the destructive incursion of these beasts; and *3rdly*, of individuals who are specially authorized by the chief Revenue Authorities to destroy animals that have become a pest and source of danger in any particular locality.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort William, 21st February 1870, No. 878.

With reference to the letter from your office, No. 64-3882, of the 23rd September 1868, calling for an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion on the question as to the propriety of legislative interference to prevent the destruction of elephants in the Lower Provinces, I am directed to forward, herewith, for submission to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the accompanying copy of an office memorandum containing an abstract of the correspondence extant in this office regarding the rights of Government in elephants.

2. From this it would seem that in most places where it is worthwhile to catch elephants Government has, by long prescription, the right, and the sole right, to catch them. But, though it has persistently asserted its rights and consistently vindicated them, the Government has never been provident enough to lay down precise rules on the subject having the force of law for Non-Regulation, or to enact a law for Regulation Provinces. Hence it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor doubtful how far the Government could, in the present day, resist any interference with its rights by individuals. At the same time His Honour thinks that there can be little objection to the Legislature doing now what might well have been done in 1855, by formally declaring the rights of Government and legalizing a system of license to hunt where Government does not wish to establish kheddahs. I am to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the draft Bill prepared by the Board of Revenue in 1854, and of the licensing rules also submitted by them.

3. In the papers from which the memorandum has been compiled nothing is said of the southern forests of the Tributary Mehals of Cuttack and Chota Nagpore. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the law might also extend to them, so as to prevent a wasteful system of hunting the elephants, and to enable Government to organize hunting parties where the elephants commit serious depredations; but the right of the tributary Chiefs to elephants is such that they would naturally expect to share in the profits of captures, and this would have to be provided for by special agreement with the Chiefs.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1871.*

AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM CONTAINING AN ABSTRACT OF THE CORRESPONDENCE EXTANT REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF GOVERNMENT IN ELEPHANTS.

The question of the right of Government to monopolize the catching of wild elephants within its own territories appears to have been first raised in 1851. In that year the Government of India in the Military Department referred the question to this Government on a requisition made by Lieutenant Sibley, Assistant Commissary-General, in charge of kheddah operations, that orders might be issued to the Civil Authorities prohibiting private elephant hunting in the forests of Sylhet, Arracan, Chittagong, Tipperah, and Cachar, on the ground that other independent Governments in India had claimed this exclusive right, and an enforcement of it was necessary for the success of the Government kheddah operations. The question first arose out of a correspondence between Lieutenant Sibley and the Magistrate of Sylhet, the latter of whom demurred to complying with the request of the former, that the Jynteah Rajah should be prohibited from hunting elephants in the forests on the southern boundary of that district, in which he claimed a proprietary right to hunt. The Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs having been consulted, replied that the right belonged to Government by custom and ancient law in Arracan and Cachar; but that in Sylhet and Chittagong it appeared never to have been claimed by Government, and was not maintainable on the theory or practice of the Mahomedan Government. The reply of the Legal Remembrancer was based on the reports of the local officers, from which it appeared that in Arracan and Cachar the exclusive right of the State to catch wild elephants was asserted by the former rulers of those countries and continued to be maintained under the British Government, and that the right in question had never been disputed; whereas in Sylhet and Chittagong such a right had never been claimed or enforced either under the Mahomedan or British Governments. The Legal Remembrancer, however, only presumed the facts for Sylhet on the analogy of Chittagong, and even as regards the latter district the grounds upon which his opinion was given were anything but conclusive.

The late Court of Directors, noticing the above correspondence, expressed a desire that some arrangements should be considered whereby the Jynteah Rajah, and others wishing to "establish kheddahs in any of the Government forests," should do so only in communication with the Commissariat Department. The Rajah had petitioned to be allowed to hunt in the Sylhet forests, claiming a right to his zemindary only. The zemindary was on the borders of the great forest stretching from Burmah to Sylhet.

The Board of Revenue were accordingly instructed to settle the terms of arrangements with the Jynteah Rajah and any others who might claim a right to hunt in Sylhet in consequence of having done so in past years. In the instructions to the Board of Revenue it was said, "Any attempt on the part of any other person either to claim a right of entering into arrangements with the Government, or to take independent measures for the capture of elephants in any of the abovementioned districts, must be resisted by every legal means; and if the law, as it stands, is found insufficient to protect adequately the interests of Government in this important respect, it will become necessary to consider the expediency of applying to the Legislature to amend the defect."

"In Arracan and Cachar, and perhaps also in Assam, where the right of Government to the exclusive privilege of catching elephants in the forests is fully established and has never been questioned, the local authorities should be required formally to assert this privilege and to prevent any attempts that may be made to encroach upon it."

In December 1852 the Board reported that, in consequence of the above instructions having been communicated to the Commissioner of Assam, he had represented that it would be a "grievous hardship" to prohibit the ryots from hunting elephants, as they were more destructive to the crops and more dangerous to the people than any other wild animal. The Board were informed in reply that elephants could be caught and destroyed, as heretofore, in Assam; but that

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1871.*

it should be notified that exclusive right of doing so was vested in Government alone, and all parties should be informed that private hunting could only be carried on with the express or tacit

permission of Government, which might be withdrawn at pleasure. The correspondence shows that in Gowlparah† the Zemindars claimed the right to hunt and trade in elephants.

About the same time the Board of Revenue, in reply to the orders of July 1852, submitted reports from the local officers showing that the Sylhet Zemindars had no claim either by prescription or by the terms of the perpetual settlement (which in the case of that district was based on a land measurement of cultivated tracts, making the forests beyond the taluqs the property of the State); and that, as regards *Jynteah and Cachar*, those territories having been confiscated, any right possessed by the former rulers (and it was stated that they had exercised the exclusive right of catching elephants in their territories) now belonged to Government. The orders of July 1852, asserting the Government monopoly in Arracan, Assam, and Cachar, was, therefore, extended to Sylhet and Jynteah and the hill territory of Jynteah, it being at the same time intimated to the Board that the permission to private parties to hunt on payment of commission must depend in each case upon the wishes of the Commissariat.

In April 1854, in consequence of the urgent representations made by the Commissariat Department of the injury the Government kheddah operations sustained by private parties being allowed to hunt in Assam, the Commissioner of that Division was requested to instruct his subordinates "that they must without fail suppress any attempt on the part of private individuals to hunt in or near places where the Commissariat Officers may consider it objectionable, and he was told to submit, through the Board of Revenue, a set of rules to prevent persons catching elephants in any part of his jurisdiction without a license, and except on such terms as might be prescribed; and the Board were at the same time desired to consider whether the rules for licensing, which might ultimately be agreed on for Assam, might not be extended to all elephant districts in the Lower Provinces.

Shortly after, the practice of shooting elephants in Assam was also strictly prohibited.

In October 1854 the Board submitted the draft Rules called for, together with a draft Act, and the reports of the local officers consulted. These Rules and the Act are appended hereto. The licensing rules drafted by the Board provided for the following points:—

- 1.—Granting annual licenses at the Collector's discretion.
- 2.—Enforcing resort to them by penalty.
- 3.—Reserving to Government the right of pre-emption at certain fixed rates.
- 4.—Imposing penalty for elephant-killing, except for self-defence or protection of crops.
- 5.—Commissioner's decision and Collector's award to be final, subject to a civil suit.

The local officers of Assam approved of these rules, but expressed their apprehension that there would be general dissatisfaction among the ryots; and the Commissioner and Captain Dalton deprecated, on political grounds, the extension of these restrictions to the frontier forests, where the hill tribes have always hunted the elephants. To meet these difficulties the Board proposed that the rules should have effect only in those tracts where they might be declared to be in force.

The Board, however, were of opinion that before any such rules could be enforced within the limits of the permanent settlement there must be an Act of the Legislature; and even in Assam the Gowlparah Zemindars claimed, under the terms of the settlement, a right to hunt elephants and to impose a tax on others hunting within the limit of their own estates. The Rajah of Soosung, in Mymensing, had also a right to elephant-hunting, which was acknowledged at the decennial settlement.

The Board were further of opinion that in unsettled portions of the country an Act was also necessary to deal with prescriptive rights, such as are found in Sylhet and Chittagong; and this opinion was based on that of the Legal Remembrancer, and the decision of the late Sudder Court

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6th December 1871.*

in 1851, which ruled that a Zemindar in Midnapore had no exclusive right to shoot game on his estate.

The Board therefore submitted the draft of an Act, providing mainly for three points—

First.—To declare and assert by law the exclusive right of Government to catch elephants in the districts in which the right is believed really to exist, and in which the executive Government has already asserted and maintained such rights.

Second.—To give Government the power to assert a similar right in districts where no such right now exists; compensation for the loss of the right to hunt being given to Zemindars when necessary, either in money or by a reduction of their jumma, and claims to such compensation being primarily adjusted by the Collector, subject to an appeal to the Civil Court.

Third.—To declare the catching of elephants by private persons in districts where the exclusive right of Government to catch them is maintained to be a misdemeanour, punishable by fine and imprisonment.

In the case of Soosung, the Board were of opinion that, as usual, the *letter* of the decennial settlement should be observed, and that no legislation should interfere with the right which the Rajah had so long exclusively exercised.

The Board also submitted a letter from Mr. Stainforth, Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, in which that officer expressed an opinion that the Government had exclusive rights founded on ancient usage in Chittagong, as well as in Jynteah, Cachar, and Assam; and that, these four districts being sufficient to supply Government with all the elephants they want, no legislation was necessary. To prevent the Sylhet Zemindars from hunting would, Mr. Stainforth considered, be an infringement of the settlement.

With reference to Mr. Stainforth's opinion the Board said that if the Commissariat could get a sufficient supply of elephants from estates not under the perpetual settlement legislation should not embrace the latter, as this would be regarded as an infringement of the terms of the settlement.

The following table will show at a glance the position of each district as regards Government and private rights, according to the opinion of the different authorities consulted:—

Authority.	Assam.	Cachar.	Jynteah.	Soosung.	Arracan.	Sylhet.	Chittagong.
Government ...	Exclusive right, "perhaps."	Exclusive right of Government.	Exclusive right of Government.	.....	Exclusive right of Government.	Exclusive right of Government.	.....
Board of Revenue	Do., except in Gowlparah.	Do. ....	.....	Private rights.	Do.	* Prescriptive rights. Private rights.	Prescriptive rights. Private rights.
Legal Remembrancer.	.....	Do. ....	.....	.....	Do.	Do. ....	.....
Commissioner of Chittagong.	.....	Do.	Exclusive right of Government.	.....	.....	Do.	Exclusive right of Government.
Commissioner of Assam.	The native Rajahs had exclusive right (which is inherited by the British Government), but the killing of elephants for tasks and preservation of crops were always allowed.						

* In a previous letter, however, the Board appear to consider that there were no private rights in the forests of Sylhet beyond the limits of the permanently settled estates.

It will be seen from the above that it has been held by the Legal Remembrancer and the Board that the Government, as Zemindar or proprietor of the soil, has no exclusive right to catch elephants. This opinion is based on the decision of the Sudder Court in 1851, that a Zemindar has no exclusive right to shoot game in his zemindary. But the Government, as Sovereign, has such exclusive right founded on custom in Assam, Jynteah, Cachar, Arracan, and Chittagong.

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6th December 1871.*

II.—That they have the means of catching elephants.

III.—That no elephant be destroyed for the sake of its ivory, the penalty for such an offence being a fine of Rupees 500.

The abolition of the Government kheddahs was not, however, attended with the results anticipated. Private enterprise failed to keep up an adequate supply, and the Government of India, in 1865, resolved to re-establish the Government kheddah at Dacca. Private hunting was, therefore, again prohibited in the forests of Sylhet, Cachar, and Chittagong, and certain unexpired licenses were cancelled and compensation paid to the license-holders. The system of granting licenses, however, continued in force in Assam, and was extended to the Bhutan Dooars. The question as to the exclusive right of Government to catch elephants in the Dooars does not appear to have been raised.

Although the resumption of the Government operations did not immediately follow this order, applications for licenses to catch elephants during the interval were steadily refused, as it was an object that the elephant fields should be carefully preserved.

On the 23rd November 1866 the Board of Revenue submitted a letter from the Commissioner of Assam raising the question whether punishment could be legally awarded to persons found infringing the rules framed by Government and the Board of Revenue, for regulating the capture of elephants in that Province; or, in other words, whether an order of the executive Government prohibiting the capture of elephants by private parties had the force of law. The Board were requested to obtain the Advocate-General's opinion on the point.

In August 1867 the Commissioner again raised the question as to the legality of the licenses granted for the capture of elephants. He was of opinion that legislative enactment was "as much needed to warrant the Government in levying a license-tax on elephants as in levying any other tax." As this question was subordinate to that raised in November 1866, the Government assented to the opinion of the Advocate-General, which the Board now submit.

Mr. Cowie is of opinion that rules passed by Government prior to 1st August 1861, i. e., before the passing of the India Councils' Act, can have the force of law in a province which can properly be called Non-Regulation; and he says that by a Non-Regulation Province must be understood "not merely a province under the immediate administration of the Governor-General in Council, but any to which the Regulations of the Bengal Code have never been formally extended."

(Signed) P. L. GUPTA.

DRAFT ACT.

An Act for asserting and defining the rights of Government in regard to the hunting of wild elephants in the territories subject to the Government of Bengal.

2. Whereas it is necessary, in order to the due supply of the Government Commissariat, to prevent the indiscriminate capture and destruction of wild elephants within portions of the territories subject to the Bengal Government; It is enacted as follows:—

3. Whenever the Government of Bengal shall see fit to prohibit the killing or catching of elephants within any part of the territories aforesaid, a proclamation in the form annexed shall be published at the offices of the Judge, Magistrate, and Collector of the district or districts in which the tracts to be preserved may be situated, and at such thannahs and Moonsiffs' offices as the Collector of the district may think proper, with a view to give the notice due publicity.

4. Any person who shall without license kill or catch a wild elephant within a tract declared to be preserved in the manner above prescribed, or who shall prepare kheddahs, or pits, or traps, or make any other preparations within such tracts for the purpose of catching or killing wild elephants, shall be held to be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be punished by fine not exceeding Rupees 500, or, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, and all elephants, whether recently captured or otherwise, which, without sanction, may be found within such preserved tracts, shall be forfeited to the Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1871.*

5. Offences against this Act shall be punishable by the Magistrate or officer exercising the powers of Magistrate in the district in which the preserved tracts where the offence was committed may be situated, and appeals against sentences passed under this Act shall be heard and tried according to the Regulations and Acts by which appeals in cases of misdemeanour are regulated.

6. It shall be lawful for the Government of Bengal to frame such rules for the hunting and catching of elephants in the tracts declared to be preserved under this Act, and to demand such fees on the grant of licenses to hunt or capture elephants in such tracts, and to assert a right of pre-emption of the elephants captured by licensed hunters at such prices as may from time to time appear proper.

7. Should any Zemindar consider himself aggrieved by any prohibition against killing or catching wild elephants that may be promulgated under the provisions of this Act, on the ground of the proceeds of elephant-hunting having formed part of the assets on which the jumma of his estate, which he pays to the Government, was assessed, such Zemindar shall prefer his complaint to the Collector of the district in which the preserved tract connected with his claim may be situated. The Collector, after due investigation, if he consider the plea of the complainant established, shall award such compensation in money, or by a reduction in jumma, as he may consider equitable, reporting his award, through the Commissioner, for the orders of the Board of Revenue, who shall confirm or modify the Collector's award as may appear proper. Should the Collector consider the plea not proved, he shall pass an order accordingly, which order shall be appealable to the superior authorities in the usual course.

8. Should a Zemindar be dissatisfied with the decision of the Revenue Authorities, he shall be at liberty to institute a suit against Government in the Civil Court, provided, however, that the only issues cognizable by the Court shall be—first, whether the profits of elephant-hunting did, or did not, form a part of the assets upon which the jumma of the estate was fixed; and secondly, the proportion borne by such profits to the whole assets, and the proportionate reduction of jumma to which the plaintiff is entitled.

FORM OF NOTICE.

Whereas the tract of country lying between A B and C D, north and south, and E F, G H, east and west, is hereby declared to be preserved under the provisions of Act of 185 —

Notice is hereby given that any person who shall without license kill or catch a wild elephant within such preserved tract, or make any sort of preparation in such preserved tract for the purpose of killing or catching wild elephants, will be punished under the Act aforesaid, and all elephants in the possession of such person found within the said tract will be forfeited to Government.

BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.,
FORT WILLIAM,
13th October 1864.

(Signed) A. GROTE,
Officiating Secretary.

Rules respecting the catching of Elephants.

I. In districts and tracts not declared to be protected under Act of 18 , parties may hunt and capture elephants without let or hindrance as heretofore.

II. Any party desirous of hunting in a protected tract or district, whether by means of koonkees, or kheddahs, or traps, will apply to the Collector for a license, and will mention in his application where he intends to go, how many koonkees he purposes to make use of, and whether he intends to make a kheddah or kheddahs, or to trap by other means, or to hunt the animals down.

III. On receipt of the application the Collector shall forward it to the Commissary-General, and shall furnish any information of which he may be possessed respecting the applicant and his means.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1871.*

IV. The Commissary-General shall determine whether a license shall be granted or withheld, and communicate the decision to the Collector, who will cause the applicant to be informed accordingly.

V. Should the officers of the Commissariat Department so constantly decline to allow licenses to be granted as to cause a scarcity of elephants in the market, and to occasion complaints, the Collector will report the circumstances, through the Commissioner and the Board of Revenue, to the Government, who will pass such orders as may appear to be called for.

VI. When a license may be granted a fee shall be demanded from the grantee according to the following scale:—

	RS.
Should he take one koonkee into the forest*	50
Two do.	75
Three do.	100
Four do.	125
Five do.	150
Six and seven do.	200
Above nine do.	

VII. When a license may be granted to go into the forest to hunt without taking koonkees, a fee shall be demanded of Rupees 50.

VIII. On all elephants caught by licensed hunters in preserved districts or tracts, the Government shall have a right of pre-emption at the following rates:—

	RS.
Under-sized	250
Standard, 7 feet 6 inches	500
Above 9 feet	900

BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.,
FORT WILLIAM,
13th October 1854.

(Signed) A. GROTE,
Officiating Secretary.

No. 35. MINUTE by His Excellency the PRESIDENT, dated Ootacamund, 5th September 1871.

In a Minute circulated under the present date respecting the institution of game laws in this Presidency, I have intimated my opinion that the question of the protection of elephants should be separately dealt with. The enactment of a law for the preservation of an animal so useful for the purposes of labour and so indispensable in India to military operations can be justified on grounds altogether different from those which may be urged in favour of a law for the preservation of flying game or the beasts of the chase. It is strictly a matter of public policy to prevent the extermination of the elephant, a result which it is feared might be attained at no distant date in the forests and mountain ranges of this Presidency should some defensive regulations not be adopted.

2. With these impressions I circulate the former Proceedings of Government on this subject, and I submit that an Act should be drafted for consideration in the Legislative Council at its next meeting, conformable to the principles laid down in the Order of Government under date of August 24th, 1868.

3. The Government of India has decided that legislation on this subject should be of a local character.

(Signed) NAPIER.

* Note.—These fees are demanded with no view to revenue, but merely to prevent parties disturbing the forests without having the means of making captures.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1871.*

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1871, No. 1808.

The papers above recorded relate to the question of the expediency of adopting measures to prevent the wanton and indiscriminate destruction of elephants.

2. In their Proceedings under date the 24th August 1868, the Government, after a careful consideration of this question, recorded their opinion that legislative interference in the matter was necessary, and they laid down the principles which should be followed in framing any enactment having for its object the preservation of elephants. They also submitted a copy of the Proceedings above referred to to the Government of India, and requested the decision of that Government whether the requisite legislation should be imperial or local.

3. The Government of India having determined that legislation on this subject should be of a local character, the Governor in Council resolves to direct that copies of the correspondence above recorded be forwarded to the Legislative Department, in view to a Bill being prepared in that Department in accordance with the principles enunciated in the Order of Government under date the 24th August 1868, No. 1035.

4. With reference to paragraph 2 of Mr. Secretary Bayley's letter of the 5th August 1870, it is observed that under the Statute 34 and 35 Vic., Cap. 34, which received the Royal assent on the 29th June last, the local Legislatures in India are empowered to confer on Magistrates, being Justices of the Peace, the same jurisdiction over European British subjects as could be lawfully exercised by Magistrates over natives under any Act passed by such Legislature.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Legislative Department, with previous papers.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Minute by His Excellency
The President.

In a Minute circulated under the presidency respecting the ^{constitution} of Game Laws in this Presidency, I have intimated my opinion that the question of the protection of Elephants should be separately dealt with. The enactment of a law for the preservation of an Animal so useful for the purposes of labour and so indispensable in India to military operations can be justified on grounds altogether different from those which may be

RECEIVED
FEB 11 1963
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 1963

RE: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 1963

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law for the preservation
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the extermination of the
Elephant, a result which
it is feared might be
attained at no distant
date in the Forests and
Mountain ranges of this
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defensive regulations
not be adopted.

With these impressions
I circulate the former
proceedings of Government

12)
on this subject and I
submit that an Act should
be drafted for consideration
in the Legislative Council
at its next meeting
conformable to the principles
laid down in the Order of
Government under date
of August 24. 1868.

The Government of India
has decided that legislation
on this subject should be
of a local character

Napier

~~Chambers~~

Catamund
Sept. 5th 1871.

J. C. M. S. P.

35.
20. 1808. 276 Dec 2/71

Minute by H.E.
The President.

Protection of Elephants

There has been
some discussion as to the
protection of the
this minute which
has been
sent to the Com. in
Chief Mr. [unclear]
but which I have
now sent for the
first time.
27 Dec/71 R.V.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter again.

Proceedings of Govt., dated 31st December 1867, ²⁰¹⁻²⁰² N^o 1425.
" " " 20th Febry 1868 ¹⁵⁵⁻¹⁵⁶ N^o 144-147.
" " " 24th Augt. " " N^o 1035.

Read also the following papers:-

Letter from the Secy to the Govt of India, Home
Dept., dated 5th August 1870, N^o 1382.

Minute by His Excellency the
President, dated 5th September 1871.

Order thereon, 6 Dec/71. 1808.

The papers above
recorded relate to the
question of the expediency
of adopting measures to
prevent the wanton and
indiscriminate destruction
of elephants.

2. In their Proceedings
under date the 24th August
1868 the Government, after

R.V.

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lation should be imperial
or local.

3. The Government
of India having determined
that legislation on this
subject

1112 11
subject should be of a
local character, the Govern-
ment in Council resolved to
direct that copies of the
correspondence ^{above} recorded
be forwarded to the
Legislative Department
in view to a Bill being
prepared in that Dept.
in accordance with the
principles enunciated in
the order of Government
under date the 24th August
1868, No 1035.

With reference to
para² of Mr Secretary
Boyley's letter of the 5th
August 1870, it is observed
that under the Statute
34 and 35 Victoria, Chap 34,
which received the Royal
assent

spent on the 29th June
last, the Local Legislatures
in India are empowered
to confer on Magistrates,
being Justices of the Peace,
the same jurisdiction over
European British Subjects
as could be lawfully
exercised by Magistrates
over Natives under any
Act passed by such
Legislature. —

M

Legislative Dept
disapp 13/12 } with ~~Correspondence~~ 1863
previous papers. 3

not L. G. M. 1863

Cont. of 1871 ~~and~~ 1872.

Public

To
The Legislative Assembly.

Dated Dec 6 }
Recd. 1871, No. 1858.

Nos. 34. 35.

11-6-32-11
The undersigned, in pursuance
of the resolution of the
Legislative Assembly, passed
on the 11th inst., and in
accordance with the
instructions of the
Legislative Assembly,
has the honor to inform
you that the same have
been forwarded to the
proper authorities for
their consideration.